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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-04 OMB-01 SAM-01 SR-02 ORM-01 ARA-06

AID-05 EB-04 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 STR-01 CEA-01 NIC-01

AF-04 /087 W
---------- 076676
R 221351Z OCT 74
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 823
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

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EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PO
SUBJ: PPD TO HOLD FIRST CONGRESS IN NOVEMBER

REF: LISBON 4450

SUMMARY: IN RECENTPRESS CONFERENCE PPD LEADERS
ANNOUNCE PARTY CONGRESS; CALL OF ELECTIONS TO BE HELD
ON SCHEDULE; DEFINE PARTY AS SOCIAL-DEMOCRATIC, NOT
LIBERAL; URGE FEWER VOTING RESTRICTIONS ON EMIGRANTS; URGE
MDP BE EXCLUDED FROM RUNNING CANDIDATES IN ELECTIONS; SAY
PORTUGAL'S PLACE IN EUROPE AND NOT THIRD WORLD; AND ANNOUNCE
POSSIBLE PPD BID TO JOIN SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL. END SUMMARY.

1. PARTIDO POPULAR DEMOGRATICA (PPD) LEADERS REVEALED DURING A
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PRESS CONFERENCE IN LISBON OCTOBER 18 THAT THE PARTY WILL HOLD

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ITS FIRST CONGRESS IN LISBON NOVEMBER 23 AND 24. THE PURPOSE
OF THE CONTRESS WILL BE TO DEFINE MORE PRECISELY PPD
OBJECTIVES, STRENGTHEN THE PARTY INTERNALLY, AND
CONSOLIDATE ON CLEAR BASIS PPD ALLIANCES WITH THE
PARTIES WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT.
(COMMENT: THE PPD DOES NOT YET HAVE A FORMAL PROGRAM
BUT RATHER GENERAL POLICY "LINES" WHICH WE UNDERSTAND
ARE EXPECTED TO BE RATIFIED AT THE CONGRESS WITHOUT MAJOR
CHANGES. THE CONGRESS WAS ORIGINALLY TO BE HELD OCTOBER
26/7, BUT WAS POSTPONED IN ORDER TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT
THE POSITIONS ADOPTED BY THE PCP AND THE MDP/CDE AT THEIR
CONGRESSES OCTOBER 20/21 AND NOVEMBER 1-3 RESPECTIVELY.)

2. ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL PURPOSES OF HOLDING THE PRESS
CONFERENCE WAS TO STRESS ONCE AGAIN THE PARTY'S INSISTENCE
THAT ELECTIONS FOR THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY BE HELD ON
SCHEDULE BEFORE MARCH 31, 1975. PARTY LEADER SA CARNEIRO
SAID THAT HE HAD KNOWLEDGE THAT CERTAIN PERSONS WERE
INTERESTED IN A POSTPONEMENT OF ELECTIONS. HE DECLINED
TO SPECIFY WHO THESE PERSONS WERE, SEMPLY SAYING THAT
A DELAY COULD ONLY BE ADVANTAGEOUS TO THOSE WHO DO
NOT ACCEPT THE PROGRAM OF THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT.
IN THE PPD'S VIEW THERE ARE "NO VALID REASONS TO
POSTPONE THE ELECTIONS."

3. A SECOND MAJOR POINT TO EMERGE FROM THE
REMARKS MADE BY THE PPD LEADERS WAS THAT THE PARTY
WISHES THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT (AFM) TO RETURN TO
THE BARRACKS AFTER THE ELECTIONS "IN ORDER TO PRESERVE
AND DEFEND THE PURITY OF THE APRIL 25 REVOLUTION."
THE ELECTIONS IN THEIR VIEW WEILL REPLACE REVOLUTIONARY LEGITIMACY
WITH DEMOCRATIC LEGITIMACY.

4. REGARDING THE FIRST PART OF THE DRAFT ELECTORAL
LAW, SA CARNEIRO REMARKED THAT THE PARTY DEFENDS THE
RIGHT OF 18-YEAR OLDS, ILLITERATES, AND EMIGRANTS TO
VOTE. THE PPD DOES NOT AGREE WITH THE RESTRICTIONS
CONTAINED IN THE DRAFT BILL ON THE EMIGRANT VOTE (REFTEL),
AND BELIEVES THAT SUCH RESTRICTIONS SHOULD BE REDUCED IN
ORDER THAT MORE EMIGRANTS MIGHT VOTE.
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5. AT ANOTHER POINT IN THE PRESS CONFERENCE, SA CARNEIRO
REJECTED MARIO SOARES DEFINATION OF THE PPD AS A
"LIBERAL" PARTY. THE PARTY IS SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC, NOT
LIBERAL, HE AFFIRMED, AND BELIEVES THAT "THERE IS NO
TRUE DEMOCRACY WITHOUT SOCIALISM, NOR AUTHENTIC
SOCIALISM WITHOUT DEMOCRACY." THE PPD IS NOT A
PARTY OF CADRES, NOR DOES IT BY IDEOLOGY OR THE

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SOCIAL COMPOSITION OF ITS MEMBERSHIP SEEK TO REPRESENT
ONE CLASS AGAINST ANOTHER. RATHER THE PPD BY SELF"
DEFINITION IS A PARTY OF ALL THE PEOPLE, WHICH IS
BECOMING CLEAR BY THE "ENORMOUS" RECEPTION IT IS
RECEIVING THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. THE PARTY NOW HAS
REPRESENTATIVES IN 100 PLACES IN PORTUGAL AND THE
ADJACENT ISLANDS, WHICH COVER ALL 22 DISTRICTS AND
60 PERCENT OF THE PRECINCTS. AS AN EXAMPLE OF ITS GROWING
SUPPORT IS CLAIMS TO HAVE SPOKEN IN ONE WEEK RECENTLY
TO 13,500 PERSONS IN 54 MEETINGS.

6. AS THEY HAVE DONE IN THE PAST, PPD LEADERS WENT ON RECORD
AGAIN AS FAVORING EXCLUSION OF THE MOVIMENTO DEMOCRATICO
PORTUGUES (MDP) FROM THE ELECTIONS, SINCE MOVEMENTS OF THIS TYPE
DO NOT CLEARLY DEFINE THEMSELVES IDEOLOGICALLY AND ASK A "BLANK
CHECK" FROM THOSE WHO VOTE FOR THEM. THEY BELIEVE SUCH
AMORPHOUS MOVEMENTS ARE BUT A FACADE FOR A SINGLE PARTY
(READ COMMUNIST) WHICH MANIPULATES THE MASSES.

7. WHAT, ASKED ONE REPORTER, IS THE PPD'S POSITION REGARDING THE
ENTRACE OF THE CENTER SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (CDS) INTO THE
GOVERNING COALITION? IN REPLY THE PPD SPOKESMAN SAID IN
PRINCIPLE THE PPD DOES NOT OPPOSE INCLUSION OF ANY
DEMOCRATIC GROUP WHICH HAS DEFINED ITSELF CLEARLY AS A PARTY,
BUT AT THIS MOMENT THERE ARE NO VACANCIES IN THE
LEGAL NUMBER OF MINISTERS WITHOUT PORTFOLIO ESTABLISHED
BY LAW (4), AND IT WOULD BE MORE INCONVENIENT
THAN ADVANTAGEOUS TO REFORMULATE THE COALITION
AT THIS TIME. THE CDS WILL POSSIBLY BE ABLE TO ENTER
THE COALITION GOVERNMENT, BUT ONLY AFTER THE UPCOMING
ELECTIONS, CONCLUDED SA CARNEIRO.

8. IN THE PPD'S OPINION THREE MAIN SITUATIONS MUST BE
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AVOIDED WHICH WOULD JEOPARDIZE FREEDOM OF CHOICE AND
THEREFORE A TRULY DEMOCRATIC ELECTORAL PROCESS: COLLAPSE
OF THE ECONOMY; MANIPULATION OF THE VOTE BY UNITARY
MOVEMENTS WITHOUT CLEARLY DIFFERENTIATED POLICY LINES
(READ MDP/CDE); MANIPULATION OF INFORMATION IN BENEFIT
OF ONE PARTY, OR IN THE NAME OF A SO-CALLED NATIONAL
INTEREST.
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9. IN TERMS OF PORTUGUESE FOREIGN POLICY, THE PPD CAME DOWN STRONGLY IN FAVOR OF CLOSE TIES WITH EUROPE AND THE COMMON MARKET. IT CLAIMED THAT IT, CONTRARY TO OTHER PARTIES (READ SOCIALIST AND COMMUNIST), DOES NOT LOOK UPON THE COMMON MARKET AS SIMPLY THE ORGANIZATION OF MONOPLIES IN AN ADVANCED STAGE OF CAPITALISM, BUT RATHER AND ABOVE ALL SEES IN IT THE BASIS FROM WHICH THE EUROPEAN PEOPLES CAN FIND THEMSELVES AND EXPRESS THEIR SOLIDARITY WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD. PORTUGAL'S PLACE IS IN EUROPE, AND ATTEMPTS TO LINK PORTUGAL TO THE THIRD WORLD OR TO IMITATE SOCIALIST EXPERIENCES SUCH AS THE CUBAN, CHILEAN, OR PERUVIAN, ARE BASED ON GRAVE ERRORS OF ANALYSIS AND IGNORANCE OF THE PORTUGUESE SOCIO-ECONOMIC STRUCTURES.

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10. FINALLY, FRANCISCO PINTO BALSEMAO, IN CHARGE OF

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EXTERNAL RELATIONS FOR THE PARTY, GAVE AN ACCOUNT OF
HIS RECENT SWING THROUGH SCANDINAVIA (SWEDEN AND NORWAY)
AND NOTED THAT HE HAD PARTICIPATED, AT THE INVITATION
OF THE FRENCH SOCIALIST PARTY, AS AN OBSERVER AT THE
"ASSISES DU SOCIALISME". HE HINTED THAT THE PPD MIGHT
APPLY FOR AND BE ADMITTED TO THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL
AFTER THE PARTY CONGRESS. BALSEMAO POINTED OUT THAT
THERE ARE EXAMPLES OF COUNTRIES WHERE TWO PARTIES "OF
SOCIALIST INSPIRATION" ARE BOTH IN THE SOCIALIST
INTERNATIONAL (SI), CITING VENEZUELA, ISRAEL, AND ITALY
BY NAME.

11. COMMENT: THE MOST NOTABLE ASPECT OF THE
PRESS CONFERENCE WAS THE NUMBER OF REFERENCES BY PPD
LEADERS TO THE "SOCIALIST" ASPECTS OF THE PARTY.
FOR THE FIRST TIME THE POSSIBILITY OF ITS JOINING
THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL WAS BROACHED IN PUBLIC,
ALTHOUGH RUMORS THAT IT WAS NEGOTIATING WITH THE
SI TO ADHERE TO IT HAVE BEEN IN THE AIR FOR OOVER A
MONTH. IT IS BY NO MEANS CERTAIN THAT ALL THE PPD
RANK AND FILE WILL GO ALONG WITH JOINING THE SI, AND
IT MAY LOSE SOME ELEMENTS TO THE CDS AS A RESULT.
HOWEVER, THE PARTY LEADERSHIP IS APPARENTLY WILLING TO
PAY THAT PRICE IF NEED BE IN ORDER TO GET THE INTER-
NATIONAL CREDENTIALS WHICH IT NOW LACKS.

12. THE PROGRAM OF THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT
REQUIRES THAT THE ARMED FORCES (AFTER THE ELECTION
OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND THE NEW PRESIDENT OF THE
REPUBLIC) RESTRICT THEIR MISSION TO THAT OF DEFENSE OF
THE NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY. SA CARNEIRO'S DESIRE THAT
THE AFM LEAVE POLITICS AND RETURN TO THEIR BARRACKS
AFTER THE ELECTIONS IS THEREFORE IN KEEPING WITH THE
AFM PROGRAM. HOWEVER, THERE APPEARS TO BE A MOVE
WITHIN THE AFM, SUPPORTED PUBLICLY BY THE SOCIALIST
AND COMMUNIST PARTIES, TO INSTITUTIONALIZE A ROLE FOR
THE AFM IN THE NEW CONSTITUTION, WHICH WOULD IN EFFECT
KEEP THEM IN POLITICS AFTER THE ELECTIONS. THE
RATIONALE FOR THIS MOE ON THE PART OF THE AFM IS
REPORTEDLY THEIR FEAR THAT THE ELECTIONS WILL RESULT
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IN A VICTORY FOR THE RIGHT AND THAT THEIR CONTINUED
PRESENCE IS THEREFORE NECESSARY TO ENSURE THAT THEIR
SOCIAL REFORMIST AIMS ARE NOT ABANDONED. THEREFORE,
THE PPD (IF SA CARNEIRO'S REMARKS WERE ACCURATELY QUOTED
IN THE PRSS) HAS PLACED ITSELF PUBLICLP AGAINST PCP
AND PS (AND BY INFERENCE AGAINST A FACTION OF THE AFM)
IN REGARD TO A FUTURE POLITICAL ROLE FOR THE AFM.
WHETHER OR NOT THE PPD WOULD VOTE AGAINST INCLUSION IN

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THE CONSTITUTION OF A SPECIAL ROLE FOR THE AFM IS NOT
CERTAIN AND WILL PROBABLY DEPEND ON WHAT OCCURS BETWEEN
NOW AND THE FINAL DRAFTING OF THE CONSTITUTION.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARTY LINE, POLITICAL PARTIES, POLITICAL LEADERS, ELECTIONS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LISBON04565
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740301-0107
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741028/aaaaaxcg.tel
Line Count: 281
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: LISBON 4450
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <06 MAR 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

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Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PPD TO HOLD FIRST CONGRESS IN NOVEMBER
TAGS: PINT, PO, PPD
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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